

Senator Haskell, Representative Elliott and distinguished members of the committee:

My name is Christina Carucci, and I am the Vice Campus Lead for Fairfield University's chapter of the Every Voice Coalition. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct On College Campuses. Sexual violence is an epidemic that has impacted students the most, both across Connecticut and across the country.

As a survivor myself, I understand the harrowing trauma of rape and how it can impact lives for years after. If I had felt safe enough to speak up and share my story, I would have. But like countless other survivors, I was silenced because I did not feel safe or supported within my community. No one should ever be left to face their trauma alone.

A campus climate survey mandate will provide a place for students to speak up in a safe, confidential environment. These stories will better inform universities of how sexual violence affects their campuses, so that they may conduct change and make improvements to policies. I also want to speak to the necessity of a two year survey. A two year survey will better ensure that *all* students may have their voices heard throughout their ongoing college and/or graduate careers.

I know that HB 6374 will lead the way to make campuses safer and more supportive for all students, and I am certain that HB 6374 will greatly improve the lives of students and survivors all across Connecticut. To the legislators here today who have the power to improve campus safety for all students, I encourage you to report this bill favorably out of committee.

Thank you all for your time and thank you for reading my testimony. Members of the Higher Educational Committee, please vote this bill out of committee as soon as possible.

Christina Carucci